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NIO # 2645-74

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SP - 164/74
29 November 1974

DDI-7457-74

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

SUBJECT: Interagency Meeting on National Intelligence
Production on Foreign Strategic Programs,
January-July 1975

1. As the end of the year approaches, it is appropriate for us to again consider a program of interagency intelligence production for the next six months or so. I propose that two meetings be scheduled for this purpose. The first will be used for surfacing and describing proposals, and the second to decide on a program. It is requested that you or a senior representative attend these two meetings. The first will be held on Friday, 13 December, from 0930 to 1200 in Room 7E-62, CIA Headquarters. The second will be scheduled later. As last year, following our deliberations, I will communicate with the DCI and USIB members to solicit their approval.

2. This past year's experience shows that projects often take longer than we expect, and that additional projects which we could not anticipate are requested from time to time by our consumers. It also shows that early identification of problem areas, and initiation of work on them, can contribute to national estimates and somewhat reduce the burden of preparing such estimates. For these reasons, it would seem desirable that any interagency program we decide upon now should be fairly tight in scope -- i.e., a small number of self-initiated projects -- so as to allow flexibility to add if required. Further, the criteria for selection should continue to be fairly rigorous. Ideally, any projects we undertake should be on subjects relevant to important to US national security policy issues likely to confront senior planners in 1975.

3. and I would very much welcome your proposals, and we plan to make one or more ourselves. Recommended sources to supplement your own judgment are: (a) the current Key Intelligence Questions -- Attachment A; (b) NIE 11-3/8-74, especially problems and

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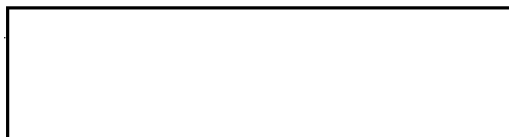
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issues which could not be resolved in it; (c) and the expressed or anticipated needs of the senior policy officials with whom you deal particularly closely. When possible, proposals tabled at the initial meeting should be in written form including, if appropriate, a proposed title, two or three sentences on recommended purpose and scope, and the organization, committee, or person you suggest should assume substantive leadership. About fifteen copies would be helpful.

4. Looking back over the past year's experience, I am pleased with our performance on the program we undertook (see Attachment B). Thank you for your cooperation and participation. I hope we can be as successful in the coming months.



Howard Stoertz, Jr.
National Intelligence Officer
for Strategic Programs

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Attachments

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Chairman, SALT Monitoring Working Group

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Attachment A

Key Intelligence Questions in the NIO/SP Area

6. What are Soviet objectives, policies, deployment plans and perceptions relating to strategic weapons and the strategic balance?

In particular, how do the Soviets justify their strategic weapons programs and what goals have they set for themselves in the area of strategic weaponry vis-a-vis the US? Catching up or some sort of superiority?
7. What are the accuracies of the Soviet SS-X-16, 17, 18 and 19 ICBM systems?
8. What progress are the Soviets making, and what are their objectives, in increasing the counterforce capability and survivability of their ICBM forces?
9. Are the Soviets developing land-mobile ICBMs; and if so, what progress is being made?
10. What doctrine and plans do the Soviets have for the deployment, command and control, and use of nuclear forces, including Soviet reactions to US policy on selective uses of nuclear weapons?
11. What are Soviet objectives in nuclear weapons technology, and what progress are the Soviets making in this area?
12. What is the intended size, role and armament of the Backfire force?
13. What progress have the Soviets made in development of improved tankers, a follow-on heavy bomber and air-launched stand-off weapons?
14. What programs do the Soviets have to increase SLBM capabilities against the United States by deployment of DELTA/SS-N-8 submarines, development and deployment of follow-on SSBN systems, and/or changes in SSBN operational practices and patrol areas, and command and control capabilities?
17. What progress are the Soviets making toward acquisition of an effective capability for open ocean submarine detection and localization?

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SUBJECT: Key Intelligence Questions in the NIO/SP Area

19. What progress are the Soviets making in ABM development, and what are their plans for further deployment?
20. What is the status of Soviet development of a look down/shoot down capability for interceptor aircraft and improved air defense warning and control systems?
21. What progress are the Soviets making toward strategic defense applications of lasers and beam weapons?
22. What are the costs of Soviet and Warsaw Pact weapons systems and defense programs, and how do these costs affect Soviet defense decision making?

Include information on how the Soviet weapons research and development and acquisition processes work.

23. What are Soviet and Warsaw Pact objectives and positions in arms limitations negotiations?
24. What are Soviet and Warsaw Pact intentions and actions with respect to adherence to arms limitations agreements with the United States?
34. What is the present status of China's nuclear capabilities?

Include the types and locations of delivery vehicles, the numbers and types of weapons in stockpile and weapons technology.

35. What progress are the Chinese making toward acquiring missile capabilities against the US and against the USSR west of the Urals?

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Include policies and actions of other countries (including nuclear powers) toward assisting the non-nuclear states in acquiring a nuclear capability.

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Attachment B

Periodic Reports

SALT Monitoring Report

President's Quarterly Report on Soviet Strategic Forces

Interagency Papers

Forecast of Intelligence Lead Times (back-up paper, NSSM 191)

Possible Employment of Soviet Strategic Forces

Prospects for Determining Accuracies of New Soviet ICBMs

Capabilities and Potential Employment of the Backfire Force

NSDM 242: Soviet and PRC Reactions to US Nuclear Weapon Employment Policy

Soviet Look-Down, Shoot-Down Air Defense Capability

A Soviet Land-Mobile ICBM: Evidence of Development and Considerations
Affecting a Decision on Deployment

Prospects for Soviet Success in Improving Detection of Submarines in
Open Ocean Areas

Soviet Capabilities to Develop Strategic Laser Systems

National Intelligence Estimates

NIE 13-8-74: China's Strategic Attack Programs

SNIE 4-1-74: Prospects for Further Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

NIE 11-3/8-74: Soviet Forces for Intercontinental Attack

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